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Hawkins  
PATENT  
LHC0091-08 12/18/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
Thomas R. Neuenschwander  
Application No.: 10/022,599  
Filed: December 13, 2001  
Title: PENCIL CORE AND METHOD OF  
MAKING

Group No. 5277

Examiner: Tamai, Karl

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DEC 13 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 1, 2002, with a period for response set to expire on October 1, 2002 which has been extended for a period of two months by the enclosed Petition for Extension of Time. Reconsideration of the application identified above is requested. Please amend the present application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 36, 40 and 43 as set forth below:

B' 36. (Amended) An elongate cylindrical stack of laminae, said stack having a substantially circular cross-section, said stack comprising at least one first lamina and at least one second lamina, each said laminae having a rectangular shape and having a width and a length, said rectangular shape defining a narrow end, said length of each said lamina being substantially greater than its said width, said first lamina being the widest of all laminae in said stack, said second lamina width being less than said first lamina width, said lengths of all said laminae being substantially identical, each said laminae including at least two interlock slots, said stack including a top lamina and a bottom lamina, each said laminae, except one of said top lamina and said bottom lamina, having at least two interlock tabs for interlocking interference engagement with the at least two interlock slots of an adjacent lamina in said stack, each said lamina in said stack interlocked to another said lamina, said stack having a substantially planar surface defined by said narrow ends of said laminae, said planar surface including one of a groove and a ridge which extends substantially perpendicular to said